

FRED'S ASSESSMENT OF CHANGE IN TEST FORMAT FOR DECEMBER 2013.

CHANGES IN EXAM FOR DECEMBER 7

Notary instructors will meet with LSU on August 6 to discuss the new test format. Until then, here is my initial assessment of what has changed.

Students will be required to take a pre-assessment starting in Jan 2014 which the state will charge for. Until then students are being given the opportunity to take it for free. Please do so. This is apparently designed to test your reading comprehension and critical thinking abilities, nothing to do with notary knowledge, etc. My students have been offered the opportunity to take it. Some people are better "candidates" for success based on this testing assessment.

THE NEW TEST FORMAT

Generally : It looks like they are going for overall "passing score" on each part, not perfection. I hope to see what that means, percentage wise, on August 6.

THE NEW TEST COMPONENTS ARE NOW IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER. This means Scenario, which has been made more difficult and tests on a wider variety of possibilities, is last

1. General Knowledge--looks like this is straight up multiple choice, but it doesn't actually say that. With a 45 minute recommendation, I have to believe it is multiple choice, but how many questions? Probably 60 but hope to get that clarified as well. Still no other books or resources can be used for this test.

2. Research Component--this looks like the old school "look up" of CC articles and Title 9, like the old days before mini scenarios with multiple choice, which has now been moved to the scenario part. My opinion is further supported by the fact that examinees can only use CC books now, not like previous exams where they could also use the study guide. 45 minute recommendation

3. Scenario Component--now an absolute killer. You can use your 2013 study guide. Two parts-- TOTAL 4 HOURS recommended. Mixes "mini-scenario" (critical knowledge) with scenario (written part). Take note of the four hour recommendation and remember this is the last exam--WOW

Written part--(one hour recommended) tests the ability to write basic notarial acts in proper form, *including but not limited to* acknowledgments, affidavits, authentic acts and simple notarial testaments. Well that just about covers it all, doesn't it? So still a thorough knowledge of pages 569-572 is needed, which you will have to study for anyway. The actual written scenario is not limited to the three subject matters of the past few exams, although they certainly could be part of it as well.

Critical Knowledge Part---(three hours recommended!) This is what comes over from the previously expanded research component. These are mini-scenarios, actually some may not be so "mini", tested with MC questions *"pertaining to a notary's role in addressing the intent of the parties"*. Preparation should focus on conveyance and mortgage of MOVABLE and IMMOVABLE property, notarial testaments, succession by affidavit HOWEVER, you must still be able to understand and apply the list of docs at 569-572. So everything is fair game and maybe this is where property descriptions end up now.

MY ASSESSMENT BEFORE THE AUG 6 MEETING

I think they have just made the exam much harder, even if they are going to a "passing score" grading. None of us will know for sure until Aug 6 and I will report back to you after that meeting.

PASS MY NOTARY IS READY TO MEET THE CHANGES HEAD ON

We are now in our fifth year of providing the state standard for educational materials for notary candidates. Please know that I have been diligent to integrate these changes into the Pass My Notary workbooks and the Fall editions will help students face these new challenges in innovative ways. They will be available by the end of August.

Here is your link to the new changes

<http://www.sos.la.gov/NotaryAndCertifications/PrepareForTheNotaryExam/GetExamInformation/Pages/default.aspx>